



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Office of Communications • 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-1300 • Voice: (202) 720-4623 • Email: oc.news@usda.gov • Web: <http://www.usda.gov>

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Ed Loyd (202) 720-4623
Tim McNeilly (202) 690-0498
Local Contact: Jane Grant (701) 530-2037

OVER \$13 MILLION IN USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS SELECTED TO SPUR ECONOMIC GROWTH IN 34 STATES *\$2.1 Million to Support Renewable/Biomass Energy Proposals*

WASHINGTON, Oct. 13, 2004—Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman today announced the approval of 97 value-added agricultural product market development grants in 34 states, totaling over \$13.1 million. The grants will help farmers and ranchers increase their economic opportunities through the development of new products and markets for agriculturally based products.

"The Bush Administration continues to place a high priority on creating new sources of renewable and biomass energy through such grant programs as the value-added producer grant program," said Veneman. "Creating an energy independent nation, through utilization of our nation's natural resources, is a valuable investment in America's future."

In support of President Bush's 2001 energy plan, 16 percent of the proposals selected will support biomass/renewable energy related ventures.

"These grants are critical to assisting America's farmers and ranchers increase markets for their commodities and to increase their profitability," said Agriculture Acting Under Secretary for Rural Development Gilbert Gonzalez. "President Bush is committed to helping more rural families live the American Dream through the creation of new business ventures that employ more rural Americans. This program is a significant investment in the future of rural families and communities."

In North Dakota, value-added agricultural product market development grants were awarded to Soy Boyz Inc., of Drayton, North Dakota, and to Cloverdale Growers' Alliance of Dunn Center, North Dakota.

Soy Boyz Inc. received a grant for \$50,000 to be used to add value to soybeans by processing them into a roasted, flavored soy nut snack food, and for working capital to purchase new bag inventory, implement an advertising campaign, and pay for on-going production and customer service expense.

Cloverdale Growers' Alliance received a grant for \$20,000 which will be used to complete a feasibility study to determine the feasibility of marketing fresh and processed pork products to retail grocers and other markets under a producer-owned cooperative label in partnership with Cloverdale Foods Company.

(See reverse side)

"We offer congratulations to North Dakota's two recipients, Soy Boyz Inc. and Cloverdale Growers' Alliance," said North Dakota Rural Development State Director, Clare Carlson. "This further shows the commitment that President George Bush and the Bush Administration have to helping our rural communities."

Authorized as part of the 2002 Farm Bill, the Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grants program provides an opportunity to refine agricultural commodities and products to increase their value in the marketplace.

Of the \$13.1 million announced, \$2.1 million will fund 16 proposals ranging from determining the feasibility and creating a business plan for harnessing wind energy in Colorado, to determining the feasibility of marketing ethanol from a 50 million gallon dry grind ethanol plant in Illinois, to determining the feasibility of converting dairy biogas into purity pipeline or automotive quality fuel in Idaho.

The Value-Added Producer Grant program is a highly competitive grant program that garnered nearly 400 applications. An independent review of applications is conducted to ensure that selected proposals are scored based on the criteria established in the announcement of the funding availability. Funding of selected applicants will be contingent upon meeting the conditions of the grant agreement. A complete list of the selected grant recipients can be found at the USDA Rural Development web site at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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**USDA Rural Development
VALUE-ADDED PRODUCER GRANT PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2004 AWARDS**

Applicant Name	State	Amount
Alabama Cattlemen's Foundation	Alabama	\$71,000
Arkansas Natural Dairy Products Alliance	Arkansas	\$129,900
Community Alliance with Family Farms	California	\$150,000
Diamond Walnut Growers, Inc.	California	\$450,000
Monterey Wine Growers Council	California	\$149,200
Olive Growers Council of California	California	\$249,170
Pacific Coast Producers	California	\$300,000
Sunkist Growers, Inc.	California	\$450,000
Sun-Maid Growers of California	California	\$150,000
Sunsweet Growers, Inc.	California	\$500,000
Tsar Nicoulai Caviar, LLC	California	\$217,721
Valley Fig Growers	California	\$61,348
*Colorado Potato Administrative Committee	Colorado	\$41,375

*Wray Farmer-Owned Wind Farm Group	Colorado	\$128,000
Southeast Milk Inc	Florida	\$185,000
Green Hill Dairy, LP	Georgia	\$15,000
Puna-Hawaii King Papaya Cooperative	Hawaii	\$50,000
W. T. Haraguchi Farm, Inc.	Hawaii	\$85,255
T. Douglas Moser	Idaho	\$49,835
*Whitesides Dairy, Inc.	Idaho	\$28,172
*Illinois Valley Ethanol, LLC	Illinois	\$287,500
Midwest Organics Recycling, LLC	Illinois	\$98,438
Corn Flour Producers, LLC.	Indiana	\$350,000
*Central Iowa Renewable Energy, LLC	Iowa	\$139,986
Eden Farms	Iowa	\$147,000
Golden Ridge Cheese Cooperative	Iowa	\$500,000
*MaxYield Cooperative	Iowa	\$50,000
Moon Valley Vineyard	Iowa	\$25,000
Niman Ranch Pork Cooperative	Iowa	\$250,000
Picket Fence Creamery	Iowa	\$43,700
Prairie Land Cooperative	Iowa	\$107,000
*Siouxland Energy & Livestock Cooperative	Iowa	\$150,000
Equus Run Vineyards, LLC	Kentucky	\$147,200
Sheltowee Farm, Inc	Kentucky	\$26,436
Agricultural Commodities Economic Development, Inc.	Louisiana	\$17,350
Garrett County Milk Processing Coalition	Maryland	\$30,000
Kilby Cream	Maryland	\$50,000
New England Livestock Alliance Inc.	Massachusetts	\$150,000
Michigan Cherry Committee	Michigan	\$141,210
Winery at Black Star Farms	Michigan	\$50,000
Elk Marketing Council Corporation	Minnesota	\$150,000
*Heartland Corn Products	Minnesota	\$279,000
Minnesota Wood Campaign, Inc.	Minnesota	\$193,300
*New Harvest Ethanol	Minnesota	\$170,000
*Brinson Farms, LLC	Mississippi	\$47,250
Lauren Farms, Inc.	Mississippi	\$26,000
Miss-Lou Blueberry Growers Association Cooperative	Mississippi	\$28,400
1Soy	Missouri	\$95,000
Allen Farm, Inc.	Missouri	\$9,500
Gateway Beef Cooperative	Missouri	\$249,140
Green Hills Harvest	Missouri	\$49,766
Heartland Farm Foods, LLC	Missouri	\$150,000
Missouri Northern Pecan Growers	Missouri	\$140,000
Premium Ag Products, LLC	Missouri	\$349,900
Amaltheia Dairy, LLC	Montana	\$75,670
Booty Farms	Nebraska	\$150,000
Country Side Cooperative	Nebraska	\$415,000
Kearney Area Ag Producers Alliance	Nebraska	\$130,700
Krista Peeks Dittman	Nebraska	\$13,315
*Nebraska Soybean Association	Nebraska	\$237,300
Small Farms Cooperative	Nebraska	\$250,000
Stonebridge Vineyard, Inc.	Nebraska	\$92,329
Birches Cranberry Company	New Jersey	\$17,000
New Jersey Seafood Marketing Steering Committee	New Jersey	\$46,100
Butternut Farm Organic Coop, Inc.	New York	\$47,000

*Empire Biofuels, LLC	New York	\$100,000
Ives Cream, LLC	New York	\$47,550
Red Gate Farms	North Carolina	\$50,000
Yadkin Valley Winegrowers Association	North Carolina	\$250,000
Soy Boyz Inc.	North Dakota	\$50,000
Cloverdale Growers' Alliance	North Dakota	\$20,000
*Oklahoma Farmers and Ranchers Energy Enterprise	Oklahoma	\$235,000
Coastal Wineries of Southeastern New England	Rhode Island	\$22,500
Carolina Seafoods, Inc.	South Carolina	\$49,000
Dakota Farms International, LTD	South Dakota	\$125,000
Heartland Grain Fuels, LP	South Dakota	\$150,000
Min-Kota Fisheries, Inc.	South Dakota	\$12,500
Affordable Building Systems, LLC	Texas	\$134,375
Farmer's Cooperative of El Campo	Texas	\$209,484
*Rodney Behrens	Texas	\$73,332
Texas Best Organics, LLC	Texas	\$150,000
White Egrot Farm	Texas	\$72,000
Dee's, Inc.	Utah	\$95,036
Living Utah	Utah	\$198,900
Virgina Wineries Association	Virginia	\$50,000
Virginia Angus Association	Virginia	\$70,000
Darigold, Inc.	Washington	\$249,000
*J&J Bosma Dairy	Washington	\$85,000
Lummi Indian Business Council	Washington	\$170,000
Seeds, Inc.	Washington	\$250,000
Taylor Shellfish Farms	Washington	\$45,000
Western Washington Agricultural Association	Washington	\$136,000
Whatcom Co. Agricultural Preservation Committee	Washington	\$113,003
Burnett Dairy Cooperative	Wisconsin	\$150,000
CC's Jersey Crème, Ltd.	Wisconsin	\$28,700
*Timber Producers Association of Michigan and Wisconsin	Wisconsin	\$120,627
Wisconsin Dairy Graziers Cooperative	Wisconsin	\$38,540

* Denotes Biomass/Renewable Energy related proposals